

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 EB-08
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9276

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PPDC, BL
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT BANZER'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER

THE FOLLOWING IS AN INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF PRESIDENT
BANZER'S LETTER OF JANUARY 27, 1978 TO PRESIDENT CARTER:
BEGIN QUOTE: "THANK YOU FOR THE LETTER YOU SENT ME AFTER MY VISIT
TO WASHINGTON TO WITNESS THE SIGNING OF THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES.
THAT EVENT CONSTITUTES ONE OF THE IMPORTANT UNDERTAKINGS OF
MODERN HISTORY, AND CLEARLY POINTS THE WAY TOWARD THE RESOLUTION
OF THE PROBLEMS WICH CONTINUE TO AFFECT INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

"LIKE YOU, I BELIEVE THAT THE GOOD FAITH AND A DESIRE FOR SINCERE
COOPERATION AMONG NATIONS, IT IS STILL POSSIBLE TO SETTLE THE MOST
DIFFICULT PROBLEMS OF THE HEMISPHERE. TO REALIZE THIS POSS-
IBILITY, THAT IT NEEDED IS A BROADER DIALOGUE AND A TRULY JOINT
EFFORT.

"DURING OUR PLEASANT MEETING, I POINTED OUT THE SIGNIFICANCE
BOLIVIA ATTACHES TO ACHIEVING A SOVEREIGN OUTLET TO THE SEA. THIS
NECESSITY INCREASES IN PROPORTION TO OUR RATE OF DEVELOPMENT.
HOWEVER, CONDITIONS OUTSIDE BOLIVIA IMPEDE A SOLUTION TO OUR
LANDLOCKED CONDITION. IN THIS REGARD, I HOPE THAT THE NATIONS
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ON WHICH THE SOLUTION WE DESIRE DEPND S WILL HELP CREATE THE
NEW CONDITIONS WHICH ARE NECESSARY IF NEGOTIATIONS ARE TO CONTINUE
TOWARD A JUST AGREEMENT.

"HE BOLIVIAN PEOPLE REMEMBER FONDLY THE INITIATIVES WHICH HIGH
UNITED STATES OFFICIALS HAVE UNDERTAKEN IN THE PAST IN SUPPORT
OF THE SOLUTION WE SEEK TO END THE GEOGRAPHIC ENCLOSURE WHICH HAS

STIFLED US FOR NEARLY ONE HUNDRED YEARS.

"DURING RECENT YEARS, BOLIVIA'S DEVELOPMENT HAS REACHED SATISFACTORY LEVELS, THUS PERMITTING OUR PEOPLE TO ENJOY LIVING CONDITIONS WORTHY OF THE HUMAN RACE. FOR US, ECONOMIC GROWTH HAS HISTORIC MEANING ONLY IF IT SERVES MAN AND HELPS TO MAKE HIM FREE.

"AFTER SIX YEARS OF SOCIAL PEACE, POLITICAL STABILITY, AND SUSTAINED GROWTH, MY GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THAT BOLIVIA IS READY FOR DEMOCRACY. WE HOPE THAT THE PLAN WE HAVE SET IN MOTION WILL BE REALIZED IN FULL. THUS FAR THE LEGAL STEPS WE HAVE TAKEN INCLUDE: THE CALL FOR ELECTIONS, THE CREATION OF AN ELECTORAL COURT, THE DECLARATION OF GENERAL AMNESTY, THE RESUMPTION OF LABOR UNION ACTIVITY, ETC. IN THE FUTURE, WE WILL ESTABLISH THE CONDITIONS NECESSARY FOR THE WORKERS TO ORGANIZE THEMSELVES DEMOCRATICALLY.

". WE BELIEVE THAT DEMOCRACY IS A SYSTEM WHICH PERMITS SOCIETY TO PERFECT ITSELF WITHOUT LIMIT. WE WILL THEREFORE DO WHAT IS HISTORICALLY POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE THAT IMPORTANT GOAL.

" FACED WITH DIFFICULTIES THAT STEM FROM STRUCTURAL INSUFFICIENCIES AND FROM THE ACTIVITIES OF THOSE INTERESTED IN PROLONGING OUR BACKWARDNESS BY FOMENTING VIOLENCE AND CHAOS, WE WILL ACT WITH ALL THE STRENGTH OF OUR CONVICTIONS, BECAUSE, FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ARMED FORCES WHICH I HEAD, THE CONSTITUTIONALIZATION PROCESS IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT OBJECTIVES OF THIS STAGE OF OUR HISTORY.

"ONE OF THE PROBLEMS THAT CAN BE SOLVED ONLY THROUGH DEVELOPMENT STEMS FROM THE DIFFICULTY OF ACHIEVING A BALANCE BETWEEN AN IDEAL POLITICAL SYSTEM AND THE DISCIPLINE REQUIRED TO REACH HIGH LEVELS OF EFFICIENCY. BECAUSE OF THE DEMOCRATIZATION PROCESS WE HAVE SET IN MOTION, WE ARE UNABLE TO TAKE THE CORRECTIVE MEASURES WHICH THE BOLIVIAN ECONOMY REQUIRES. THE COOPERATION OF FRIENDLY COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, WOULD THEREFORE BE MOST USEFUL AT THIS STAGE. WE SINCERELY BELIEVE THAT THE RESULTS ACHIEVED IN BOLIVIA WILL BECOME A PRECEDENT THAT WILL INFLUENCE THE POLITICAL EVOLUTION OF THIS PART OF THE CONTINENT.

"IN ADDITION TO THE KIND OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION THAT HELPS PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS, WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA STRONGLY ADVOCATES, THERE MUST BE AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES EXPORT THEIR RAW MATERIALS. THE GAP BETWEEN THE PRICES OF THESE RAW MATERIALS AND THOSE PAID FOR MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS FROM THE INDUSTRIALIZED

COUNTRIES IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY WIDE.

"IN REGARDS THE STRATEGIC RESERVES OF TIN KEPT BY THE UNITED STATES, NOW MORE THAN EVER SALES FROM THESE STOCKS WOULD BE HARMFUL TO BOLIVIA.

"WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THERE EXISTS A HIERARCHY OF RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PRESERVING PEACE IN THE WORLD, WITHIN WHICH ALL COUNTRIES MUST PLAY A ROLE.

"WITHIN THIS SCHEME, WE BELIEVE THAT THE GREAT POWERS, INASMUCH AS THEY ARE FURTHER ADVANCED POLITICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY, MUST ASSUME GREATER RESPONSIBILITY IN THE EFFORT TO GUARANTEE PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AND TO CONTRIBUTE DECISIVELY TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ELIMINATION OF TENSIONS.

"I BELIEVE IT NECESSARY TO INSIST THAT THE SMALL COUNTRIES, BECAUSE OF THEIR SIZE, DO NOT HAVE THE MEANS TO INFLUENCE, IN A MEANINGFUL WAY, THE DECISIONS WHICH AFFECT THE PROGRESS OF HUMANITY.

"THIS REALITY INTIMATELY AFFECTS THE EVOLUTION OF ALL NATIONAL SOCIETIES. IN EFFECT, WHILE DISLOCATIONS AND CONTINUOUS DETERIORATION PERSIST IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS, THE INCREASING PROSPERITY OF THE RICHER NATIONS WILL INEVITABLY POSE A THREAT OF GREATER POVERTY AND BACKWARDNESS FOR THE POORER COUNTRIES.

" THIS SITUATION RETARDS THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT AND CAUSES A LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN POLITICAL GOALS, THUS PROMOTING SOCIAL UNREST. THESE CONDITIONS DO NOT FAVOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A POLITICAL SYSTEM WHOSE AIM IS CONTINUOUS EVOLUTION.

"CONSEQUENTLY, ANY EFFORT TO ADOPT A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM IS NOT ENCOURAGED IF THE GREAT POWERS REFUSE TO HEED THE DEMANDS OF

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THE LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

"WE MAINTAIN INVARIABLY THAT LIFE AND PERSONAL LIBERTIES MUST BE PROTECTED AGAINST ANY ACTION THAT ADVERSELY AFFECT THEM. IN THIS RESPECT WE ALIGN OURSELVES WITHOUT HESITATION WITH ANY POLICY THAT ADVOCATES RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS WORLDWIDE.

"IF THE SPIRITUAL AND MATERIAL NEEDS OF HUMANITY ARE TO BE SATISFIED, HOWEVER, INTEGRAL SOLUTIONS MUST BE SOUGHT. HUMAN DIGNITY REQUIRES AN ECONOMIC AND MORAL FOUNDATION, AND NATIONS NEED SIMILAR SUPPORT.

"AT THE SAME TIME, EQUAL ATTENTION MUST BE PAID TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE AGENTS OF VIOLENCE. IT IS ONLY JUST THAT THOSE WHO ENGAGE IN TERRORISM, SEEKING REFUGE IN THE RESPECT FOR THE HUMAN RIGHTS THEY VIOLATE, BE COUNTERED WITH EQUAL FORCE.

"I SINCERELY BELIEVE THAT THE NEW IDEAS AND PROPOSALS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MATURITY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, CONTRIBUTE APPRECIABLY TO ACHIEVING THE WELLBEING AND DIGNITY WE ALL DESIRE FOR THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD.

"IN REGARD TO UNITED STATES CITIZENS DETAINED FOR TRAFFICKING IN DRUGS, I BELIEVE THAT THE PRISONER EXCHANGE TREATY TO BE SIGNED

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SOON BY OUR TWO COUNTRIES WILL RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM. AT THE SAME TIME, WE HAVE ESTABLISHED A COMMISSION TO IMPROVE OUR NARCOTICS LAWS, SO THAT TRAFFIC IN NARCOTICS CAN BE CURTAILED AND MODERN AND STRICT GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED FOR THE PROSECUTION OF OFFENDERS.

"THE CORDIAL CONVERSATIONS I HAVE HAD WITH AMBASSADOR PAUL BOEKER LEAD ME TO BELIEVE THAT THE TIES BETWEEN BOLIVIA AND THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN, ON THE BASES OF MUTUAL COMPREHENSION AND RESPECT.

"I WANT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REITERATE MY ASSURANCES OF HIGHEST CONSIDERATION AND AT WHICH TIME TO WISH YOU COMPLETE SUCCESS IN THE MISSION WHICH HISTORY HAS ASSIGNED

YOU."
GENERAL HUGO BANZER SUAREZ
PRESIDENT OF BOLIVIA
END QUOTE
BOEKER

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